

Application Serial No. 09/501,017
Amendment Dated August 5, 2005
Reply to *Ex parte Quayle* Action of July 15, 2005

Docket No. 1232-4612

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 5 and 9 are independent.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): An image processing apparatus comprising:
a detecting part which detects, in an inputted image signal, a high-luminance portion that exceeds a predetermined value;
a pattern generating part which generates a two dimensional pattern according to the detection made by said detecting part, the pattern spreading two-dimensionally from a center of the detected high-luminance portion to [[the]] a periphery of the detected high-luminance portion in both a horizontal direction and a vertical direction and having suppression characteristics such that a suppression level is reduced from the center of the detected high-luminance portion toward [[a]] the periphery of the high-luminance portion;
a separating part which separates a color signal from the image signal; and
a suppression part which suppresses the separated color signal in a prescribed two-dimensional area including the detected high-luminance portion [[to]] in both the horizontal direction and the vertical direction on the image by the two dimensional pattern.

2 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:
a first storage part which stores an output from said detecting part, wherein said generating part generates the two dimensional pattern according to an output from said first storage part; and

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a second storage part which stores [[this]] said pattern, wherein said suppression part suppresses the color signal using the pattern read out of said second storage part.

3 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image signal is a signal of an image captured by an image sensing part, and said detecting part detects a saturated portion of said image sensing part as the high-luminance portion.

4 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the two dimensional pattern has the suppression characteristic in which gain of the color signal is made zero in the high-luminance portion and suppression is reduced with distance from the high-luminance portion toward the periphery thereof and is eliminated at a location beyond a predetermined distance from the high-luminance portion.

5 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): An image processing method comprising:
detecting, in an inputted image signal, a high-luminance portion that exceeds a predetermined value;
generating a two dimensional pattern according to the detection made in said detecting processing, the pattern spreading two-dimensionally from a center of the detected high-luminance portion to [[the]] a periphery of the detected high-luminance portion in both a horizontal direction and a vertical direction and having suppression characteristics such that a suppression level is reduced from the center of the detected high-luminance portion toward [[a]] the periphery of the high-luminance portion;
separating a color signal from the image signal; and

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suppressing the separated color signal in a prescribed two-dimensional area including the detected high-luminance portion [[to]] in both the horizontal direction and the vertical direction ~~on the image~~ by the two dimensional pattern.

6 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The method according to claim 5, further comprising:

first storing the detected high-luminance portion, wherein said generating step generates the two dimensional pattern in dependence upon this stored high-luminance portion;
and

second storing [[this]] said two dimensional pattern, wherein said suppression step suppresses the color signal upon reading out the stored two dimensional pattern.

7 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The method according to claim 5, wherein the image signal is a signal of an image captured by an image sensing part, and said detecting step detects a saturated portion of said image sensing part as the high-luminance portion.

8 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The method according to claim 5, wherein the two dimensional pattern has the suppression characteristic in which gain of the color signal is made zero in the high-luminance portion and suppression is reduced with distance from the high-luminance portion toward the periphery thereof and is eliminated at a location beyond a predetermined distance from the high-luminance portion.

9 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for executing:

detection processing for detecting, in an inputted image signal, a high-luminance portion that exceeds a predetermined value;

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generation processing for generating a two dimensional pattern according to the detection in said detection processing, the pattern spreading two-dimensionally from a center of the detected high-luminance portion to [[the]] a periphery of the detected high-luminance portion in both a horizontal direction and a vertical direction and having suppression characteristics such that a suppression level is reduced from the center of the detected high-luminance portion toward [[a]] the periphery of the high-luminance portion;

separation processing for separating a color signal from the image signal; and

suppression processing for suppressing the separated color signal in a prescribed two-dimensional area including the detected high-luminance portion [[to]] in both the horizontal direction and the vertical direction ~~on the image~~ by the two dimensional pattern.

10 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The storage medium according to claim 9, said storage medium further storing:

a program for executing processing for storing the detected high-luminance portion, wherein said generating processing generates the two dimensional pattern according to the detection made in said detecting processing; and

a program for executing processing for storing [[this]] said two dimensional pattern, wherein said suppression processing suppresses the color signal upon reading out the stored two dimensional pattern.

11 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The storage medium according to claim 9, wherein the image signal is a signal of an image captured by an image sensing part, and said detecting processing detects a saturated portion of said image sensing part as the high-luminance portion.

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12 (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED): The storage medium according to claim 9, wherein the two dimensional pattern has the suppression characteristic in which gain of the color signal is made zero in the high-luminance portion and suppression is reduced with distance from the high-luminance portion toward the periphery thereof and is eliminated at a location beyond a predetermined distance from the high-luminance portion.

13-16 (CANCELLED).